(ii) It is prayed that at least the honge, hunalu and kagli trees may be excluded from the list of classified trees and the raiyats allowed to cut and remove green firewood from District Forests for agricultural purposes.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) As agreed to by the Conservator of Forests the tops and lops of honne trees out of the annual coupe fellings will be given free in the Shikarpur, Sorab and Sagar Taluks for ploughs and agricultural implements.

(*b*) Cannot be done.

SUBJECT No. 130.

Free grant of hongarike sticks for sugar-cane mills.

Mr. Lakshminarasimhachar, Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The Forest Department has provided no facilities to the raiyats for taking hongarike sticks for use in places where sugar-cane is milled. This has retarded the sugar industry. The hongarike is of no use to the Forest Department, as it catches fire in the summer and springs up again in the winter. The poor raiyats may be allowed to take this free.

Permission should be given to take the sticks from State Forests as they are not found in sufficient quantities in District Forests. They are usually consumed in forest fires and are of no value as timber.

Reply of Government.—Permission cannot be given to take them from State Forests as a matter of course. But such permission will be given by the Conservator when there is no objection to remove them from specified tracts.

SUBJECT No. 131.

Free grant of hebbidaru.

Messrs. Srinivasa Dikshit and Bhavani Rao, Shikarpur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Orders have now been passed directing the free grant of hebbidaru in the malnad tracts. This concession may be extended to the semi-maidan taluks also.

Reply of Government.—The Conservator will be requested to extend the concession to the semi-malnad taluks of Shikarpur and Shimoga.

SUBJECT No. 132.

Inconvenience caused to the malnad raiyats by forest reservation.

(1) Messrs. Seshappa and Subraya Bhatta, Tirthahalli Taluk.
(2) Mr. C. Nagappa, Nagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) For the benefit of the malnad raiyats grazing and soppin betta lands have been left free from time immemorial and they have been given the right to use green leaves for manure and to take firewood for domestic purposes. These rights, however, are now interfered with even in the vicinity of inhabited villages by the inclusion of these lands in the forest areas that are now being reserved. Even free grazing lands have been greatly diminished. Whenever reservations are made the mamool rights of the raiyats should not be curtailed. Subject No. 180 of 1906 dealing with this question was referred to the Revenue Commissioner and the Conservator of Forests for opinion; but no orders have yet

been passed, and in the forest reservations that have since been effected, their privileges have not at all been respected. Malaria largely prevails in the malnad owing to the existence of dense forests.

(2) In places like the Kabbanad magani where there are dense forests, the clearing of forest growth should be freely permitted. Ever since kumri cultivation has been stopped, the tract is being denuded of its population. Owing to the difficulties of transport, it is not possible to extract any timber from these forests. They do not also contain any useful timber. If necessary, only the forests bordering on the ghats may be reserved.

Reply of Government.—The necessity for the reservation of any particular area is carefully considered before it is notified for settlement and the requirements of agriculture and the interests of the raiyats are always kept in view before the sanction of Government is given to the reservation. The Forest Settlement Officer is also required to make a liberal provision for grazing and for the other rights and privileges enjoyed by the people. Reservation is necessary to secure an equal distribution of rainfall. in any particular locality there has been excessive reservation, the matter may be represented when the block is selected for reservation and notified.

SUBJECT No. 133.

Agency for the sale of Mysore timber.

(a) Mr. K. Shankarnarayan Rao, Nagar Sabha.
(b) Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The system of appointing a travelling agent to procure sales of Government timber seems to entail much expenditure on the State. Either this system may be abolished altogether in view of the fact that the denudation of forests affects the rainfall, or timber depôts may be opened at places which stand in need of a supply of timber.

(*b*) It is requested that the Government may be pleased to state if any commission agent is employed to sell Mysore timber in Egypt; if so, what commission is paid to him and what commission was paid to such an agent during 1907-08. It seems to be more economical to open a depôt there and place a Ranger in charge of it.

Reply of Government.—The travelling agent has been appointed to study outside markets and see if there is any demand for Mysore timber. In Egypt there seems to be such a demand and the sale of timber there promises to be profitable. The timber is also of varieties, such as nandi, dindiga and thadasalu for which there is not much local demand. The question of investigating the causes which have led to a diminution in the demand for sandal in China and Japan is engaging attention. After sufficient experience of the market is gained, the question whether it will be more profitable for the Forest Department to sell directly or through an agent will be